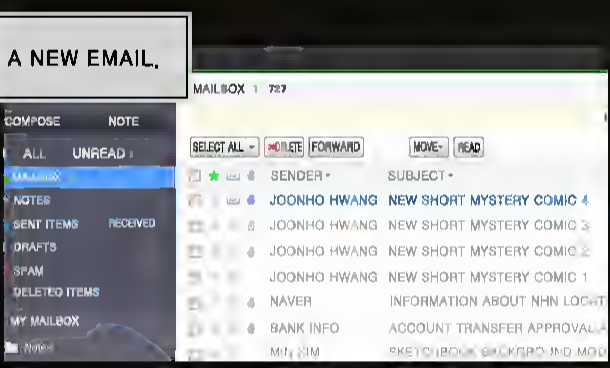
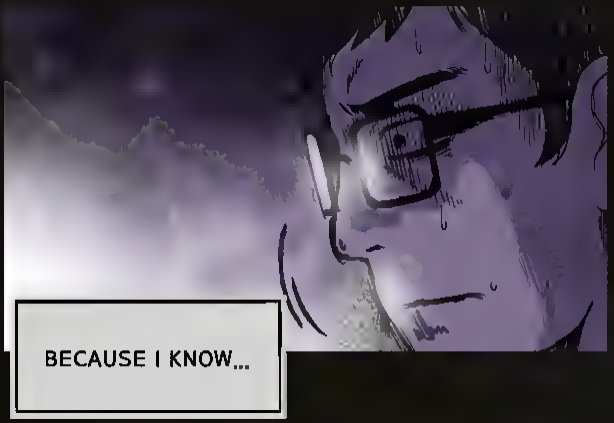
THE FOLLOWING IS A WORK OF FICTION.

THIS WORK CONTAINS SCENES WHICH MAY BE DISTURBING FOR SOME READERS, SO THOSE WITH WEAK HEARTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO READ ON.

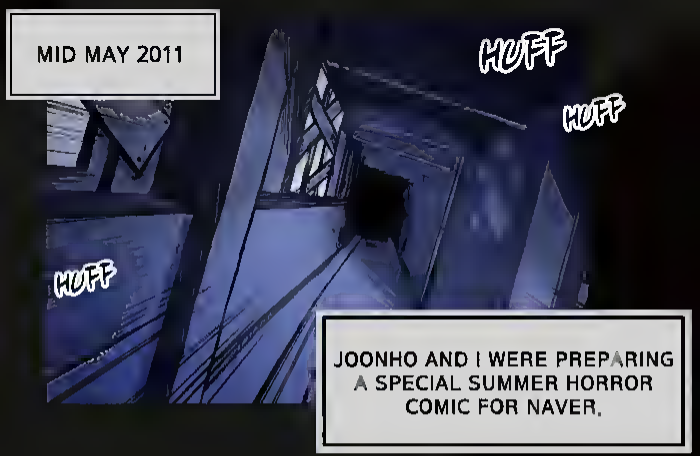
A NEW EMAIL.

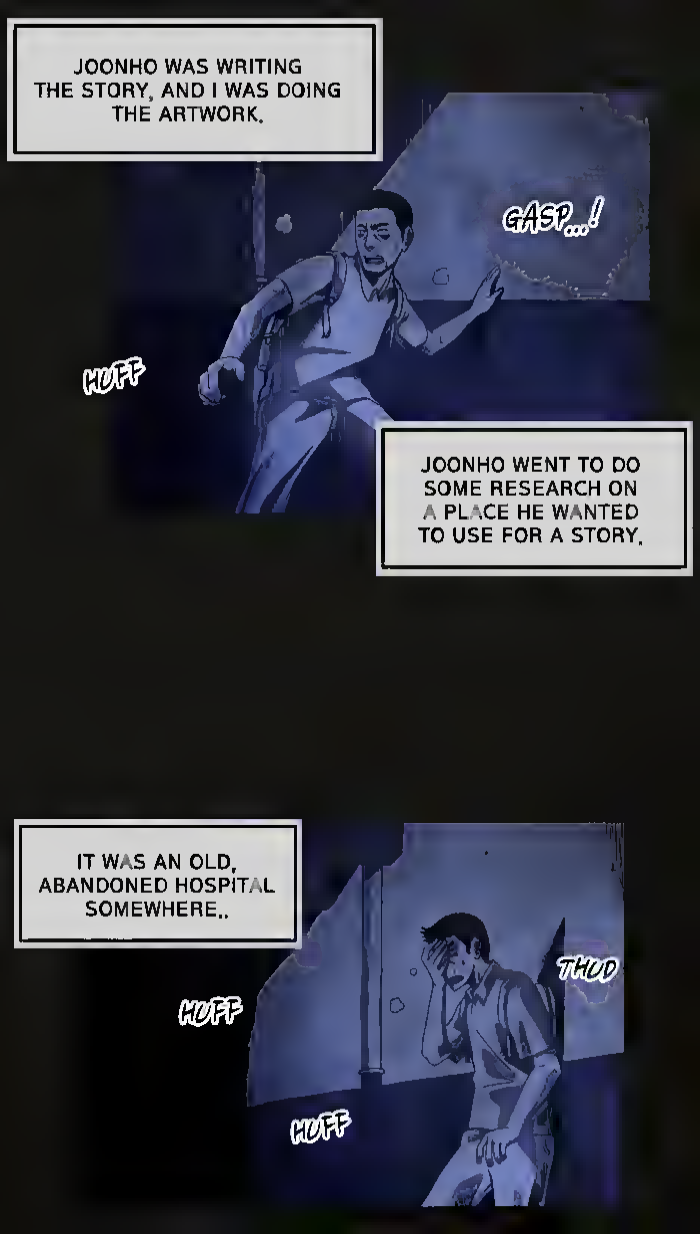


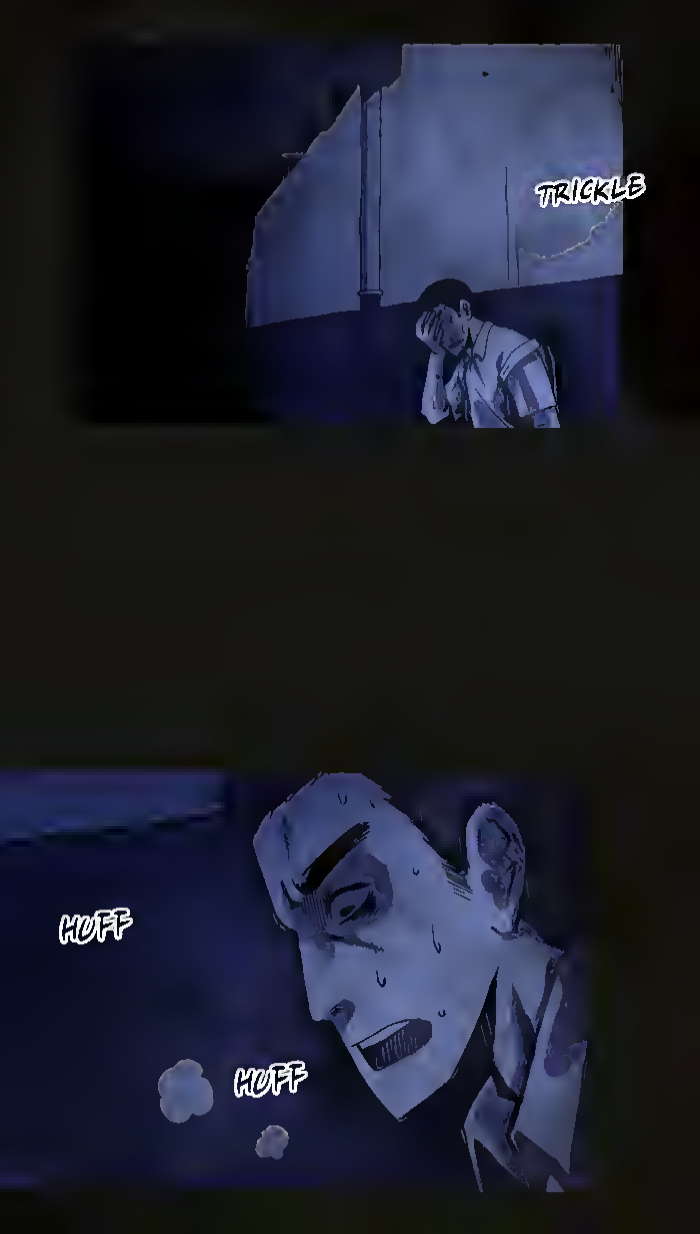
I'M TERRIFIED TO OPEN IT.

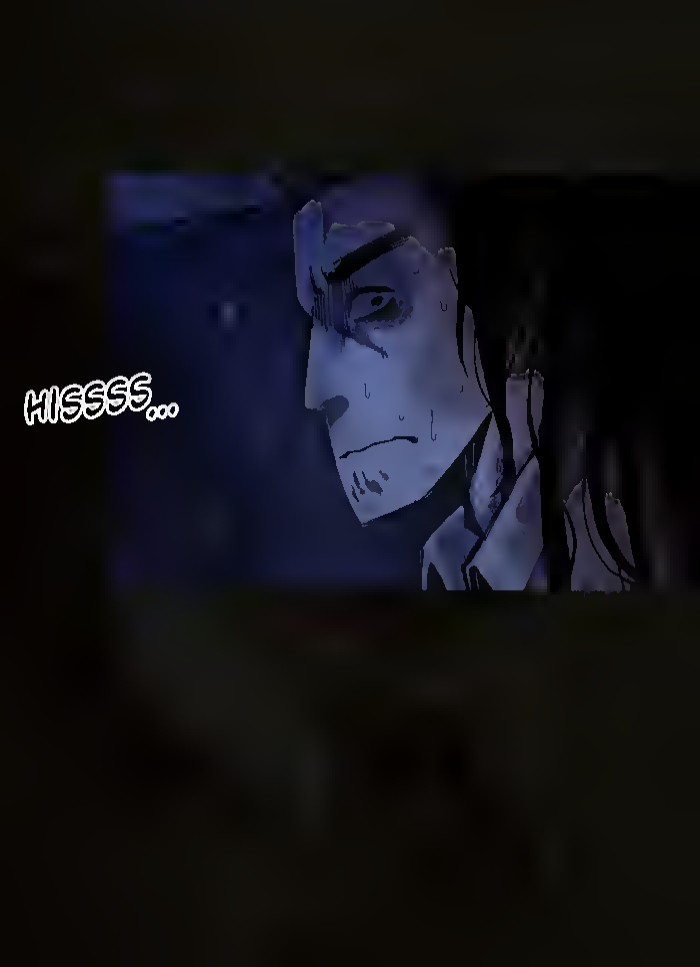

BECAUSE I KNOW...

THAT THERE'S SOMETHING
THE VAULT OF HORROR:
A COLLECTION OF NIGHTMARES
RESEARCH


MID MAY 2011
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
JOONHO AND I WERE PREPARING A SPECIAL SUMMER HORROR COMIC FOR NAVER.

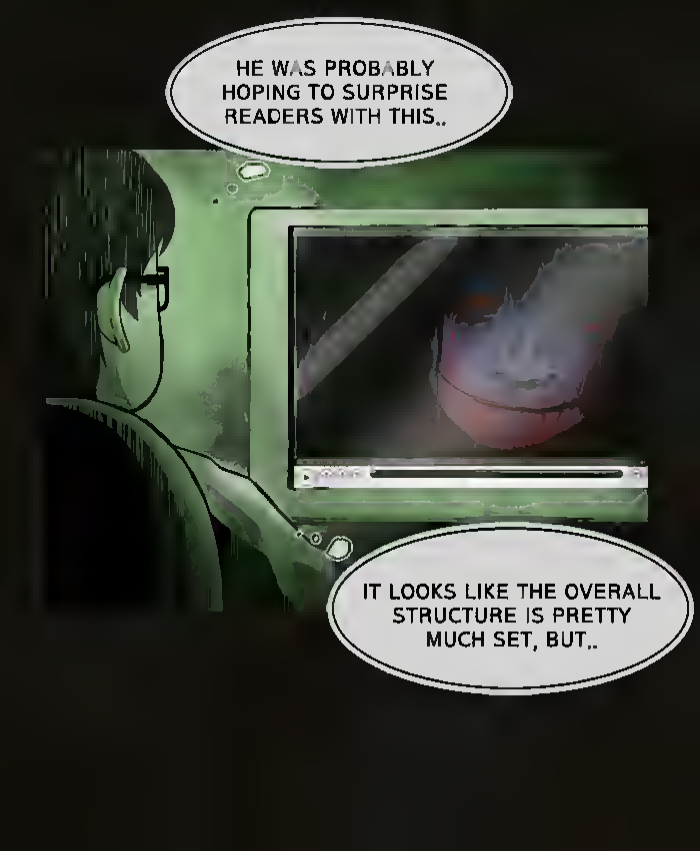

JOONHO WAS WRITING THE STORY, AND I WAS DOING THE ARTWORK.
GASP..!
HUFF
JOONHO WENT TO DO SOME RESEARCH ON A PLACE HE WANTED TO USE FOR A STORY.
IT WAS AN OLD, ABANDONED HOSPITAL SOMEWHERE..
HUFF
THUD
HUFF


TRICKLE
HUFF
HUFF

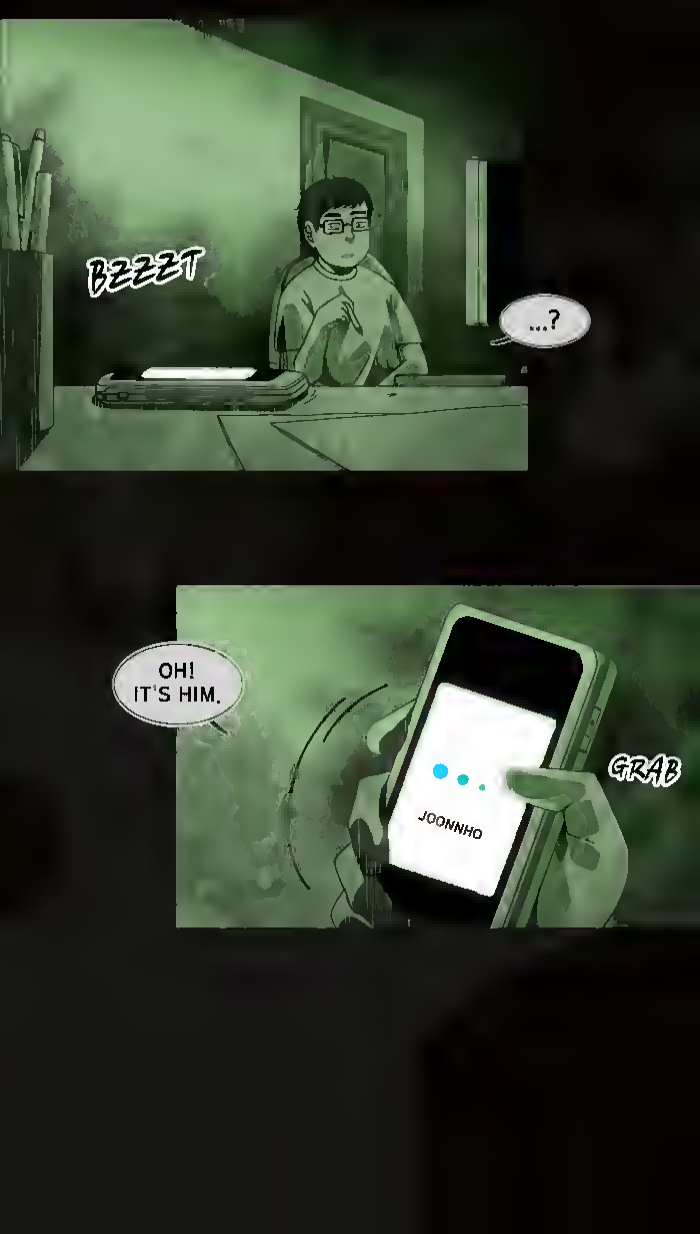

HISSSS...

AAAHHH!
H-HELP!!
AAAGHH!!
.....

CLICK
HMM..


HE WAS PROBABLY HOPING TO SURPRISE READERS WITH THIS..
IT LOOKS LIKE THE OVERALL STRUCTURE IS PRETTY MUCH SET, BUT..

WHEN I ACTUALLY DRAW IT OUT, IT'S NOT VERY SCARY.
IF JOONHO'S HAVING TROUBLE COMING UP WITH A GOOD SCENARIO, THEN I SHOULD TRY TO THINK OF SOMETHING...


BZZZT
...?
OH!
IT'S HIM.
GRAB
JOONNHO

HEY, OUT DOING RESEARCH?
HOW'S IT GOING? THINK WE'VE GOT A GOOD STORY FOR OUR HORROR COMIC?

I'VE BEEN LOOKING AROUND... BUT I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING TOO EXCITING YET.
BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, I'M SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO THINK OF SOMETHING. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER.

ANYWAY, THE SIGNAL IN HERE ISN'T VERY GOOD.
SO IT'S NOT EASY TO CALL YOU.
EVEN NOW, I WAS JUST BARELY ABLE TO FIND A SIGNAL.

I'M SURPRISED. I FIGURED THERE WERE ANTENNAS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
I NEVER THOUGHT THERE'D BE A PLACE IN KOREA WHERE PHONES DON'T WORK.
WELL, IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE CALLING, JUST TEXT ME ANY IDEAS YOU GET.

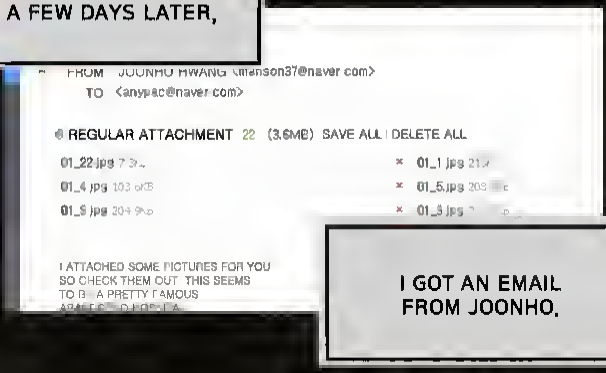
I'LL EMAIL YOU ANY GOOD IDEAS OR MATERIALS THAT I FIND, TOO.
COOL, SOUNDS GOOD.

BUT HEY, WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE BACK?
I'M STILL NOT-
...CHCHHH
HELLO?
JOONHO?

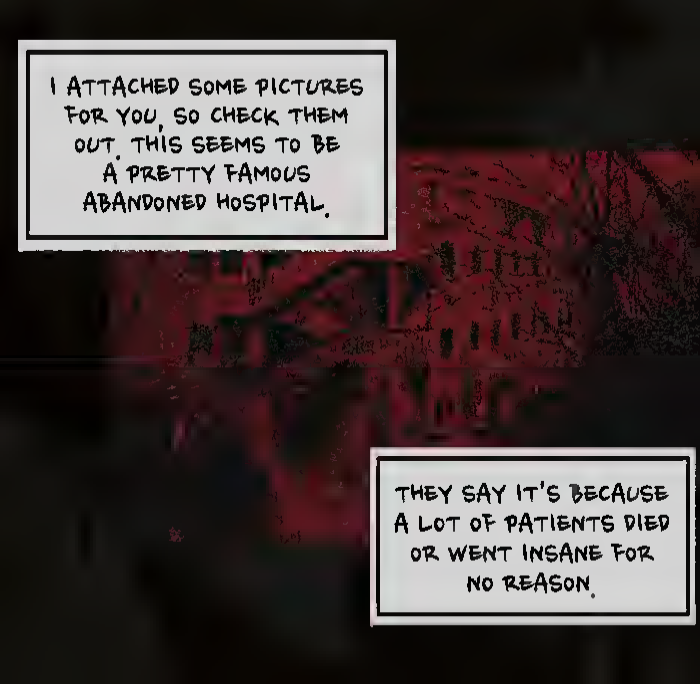
HM.
IT CUT OFF.
LOOKS LIKE THE SIGNAL REALLY IS BAD...
.....?
AM 02:27

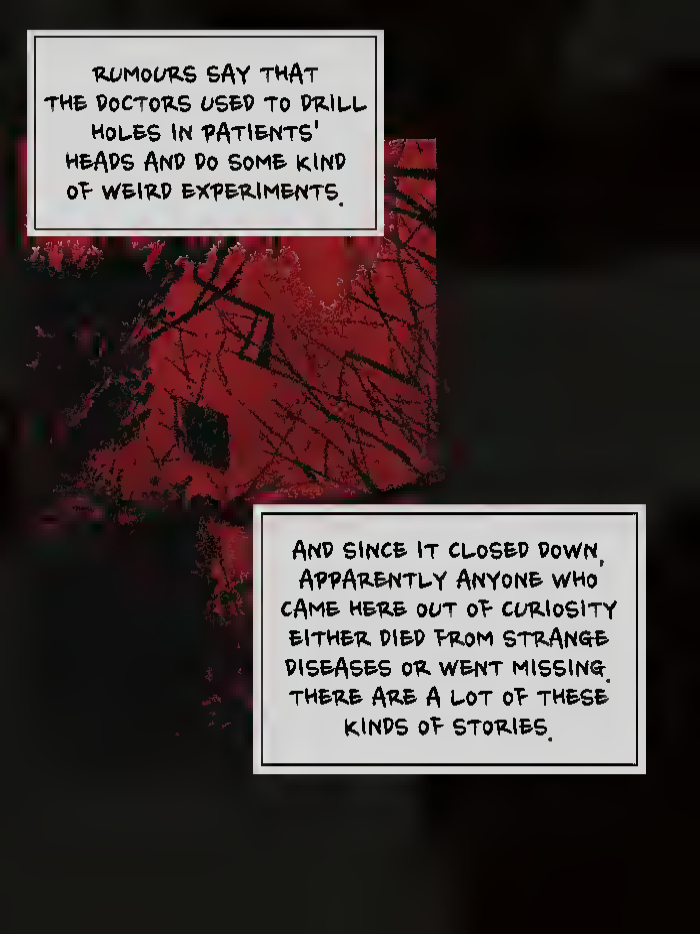
2:27 AM?
WHERE THE HECK IS HE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

A FEW DAYS LATER,

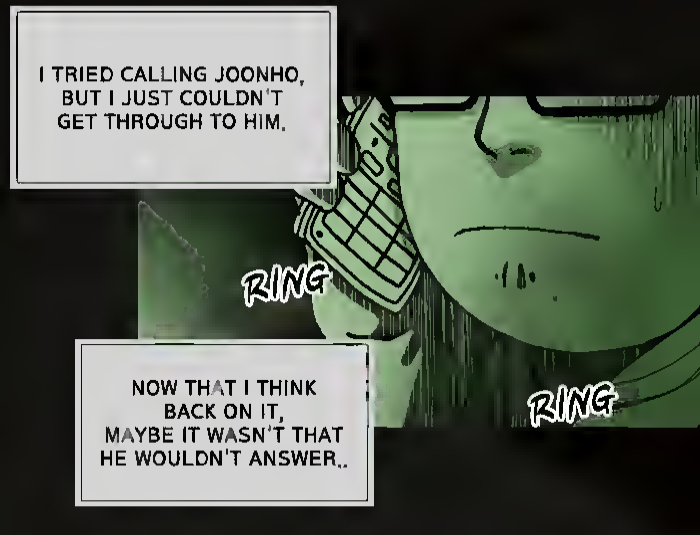


I GOT AN EMAIL
FROM JOONHO.


I ATTACHED SOME PICTURES FOR YOU, SO CHECK THEM OUT. THIS SEEMS TO BE A PRETTY FAMOUS ABANDONED HOSPITAL.
THEY SAY IT'S BECAUSE A LOT OF PATIENTS DIED OR WENT INSANE FOR NO REASON.

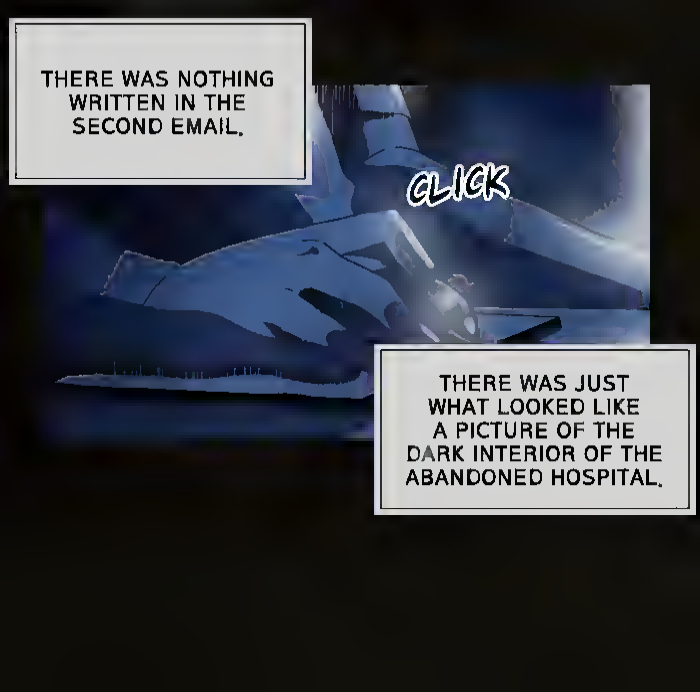

RUMOURS SAY THAT THE DOCTORS USED TO DRILL HOLES IN PATIENTS' HEADS AND DO SOME KIND OF WEIRD EXPERIMENTS.
AND SINCE IT CLOSED DOWN, APPARENTLY ANYONE WHO CAME HERE OUT OF CURIOSITY EITHER DIED FROM STRANGE DISEASES OR WENT MISSING. THERE ARE A LOT OF THESE KINDS OF STORIES.

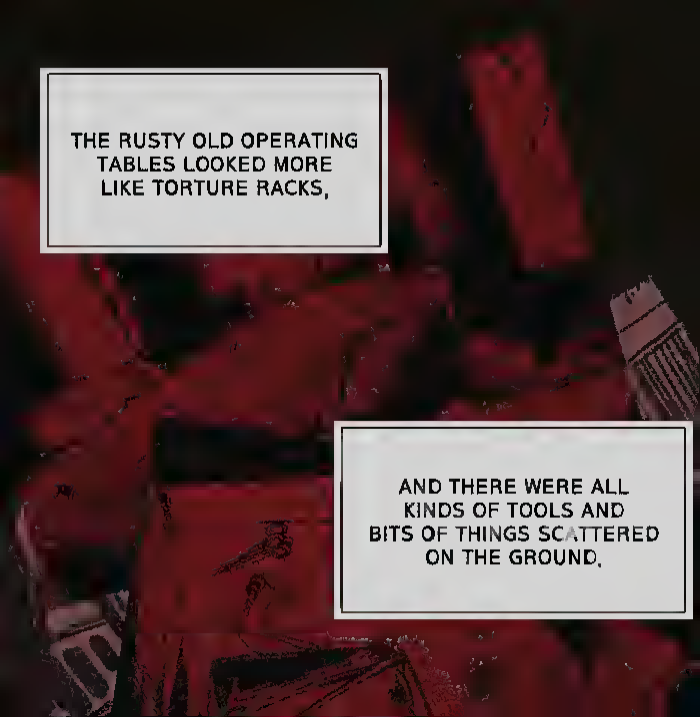
THEY'VE TRIED SUMMONING SHAMANS TO CLEANSE THE PLACE, BUT THEY ALWAYS PASS OUT DURING THE CEREMONY, SO NOBODY COMES AROUND HERE ANYMORE.
I'M TRYING TO TELL MYSELF THAT THEY'RE JUST STORIES, BUT BEING HERE GIVES ME THE CREEPS...
.....
I GOT A STRANGE FEELING AFTER LOOKING AT THE EMAIL AND THE ATTACHED PICTURES.

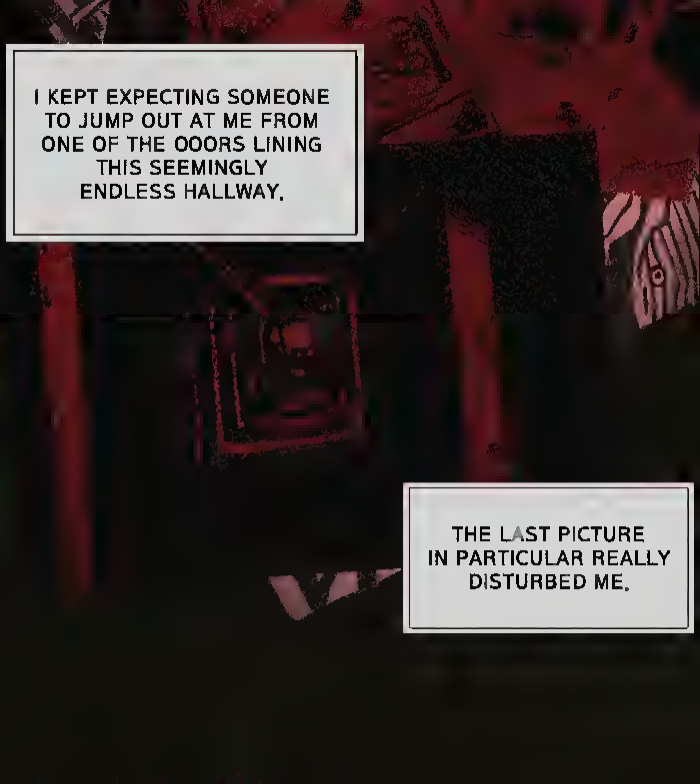

I TRIED CALLING JOONHO, BUT I JUST COULDN'T GET THROUGH TO HIM.
RING
NOW THAT I THINK BACK ON IT, MAYBE IT WASN'T THAT HE WOULDN'T ANSWER..
RING

MAYBE HE COULDN'T ANSWER..

THE NEXT NIGHT...
COMPOSE
NOTE
ALL
UNREAD
MAILBOX
NOTES
SENT ITEMS
RECEIVED
MAILBOX 1 / 727
SELECT ALL
DELETE
FORWARD
SENDER
JOONHO HWANG
I GOT ANOTHER EMAIL.


THERE WAS NOTHING WRITTEN IN THE SECOND EMAIL.
CLICK
THERE WAS JUST WHAT LOOKED LIKE A PICTURE OF THE DARK INTERIOR OF THE ABANDONED HOSPITAL.


THE RUSTY OLD OPERATING TABLES LOOKED MORE LIKE TORTURE RACKS,
AND THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF TOOLS AND BITS OF THINGS SCATTERED ON THE GROUND,


I KEPT EXPECTING SOMEONE TO JUMP OUT AT ME FROM ONE OF THE OOORS LINING THIS SEEMINGLY ENDLESS HALLWAY.
THE LAST PICTURE IN PARTICULAR REALLY DISTURBED ME.

IT WAS JUST A SHOT OF PITCH BLACK. I COULDN'T MAKE OUT A THING.

BUT IT WASN'T JUST NORMAL DARKNESS.

I COULD DEFINITELY SEE THE SHAPE OF SOMETHING LURKING IN THE DARK.

I KEPT TRYING TO CALL JOONHO, BUT I COULDN'T REACH HIM FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

WHENEVER I CALLED HIM, I COULD JUST HEAR A FAINT BUZZING SOUND IN THE BACKGROUND.

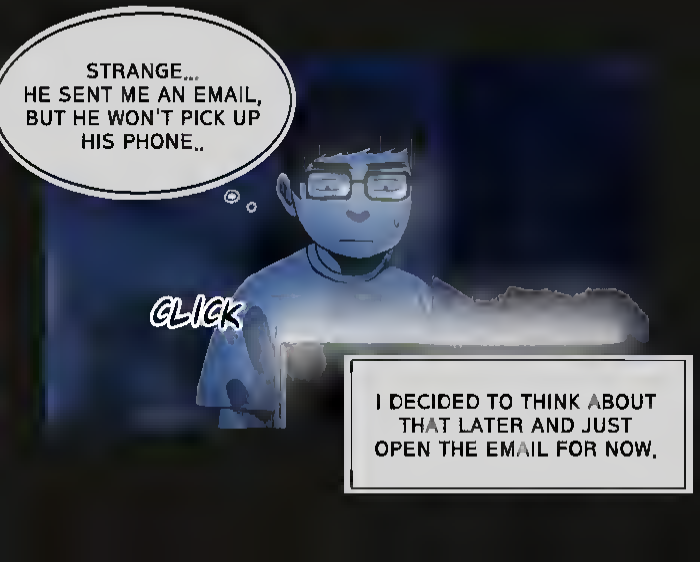
IT WAS THE KIND OF SOUND AN OLD, SQUEAKY MACHINE MIGHT MAKE IF IT NEEDED SOME OIL.

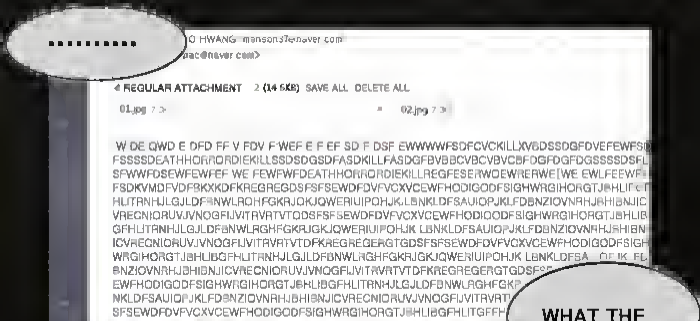
BZZZ

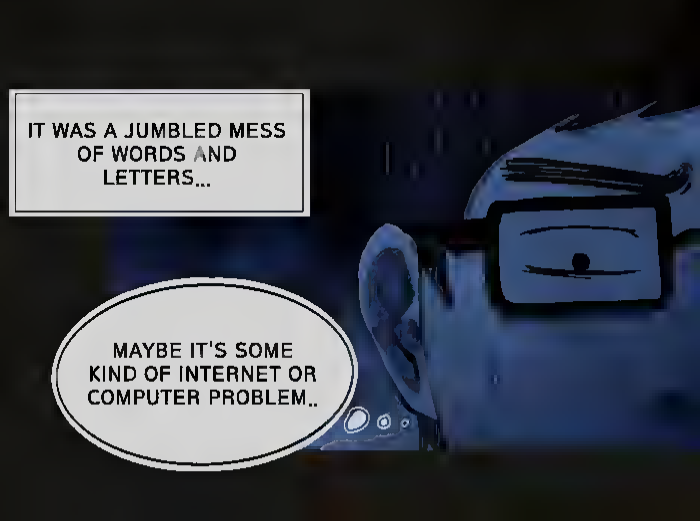
GREAK-

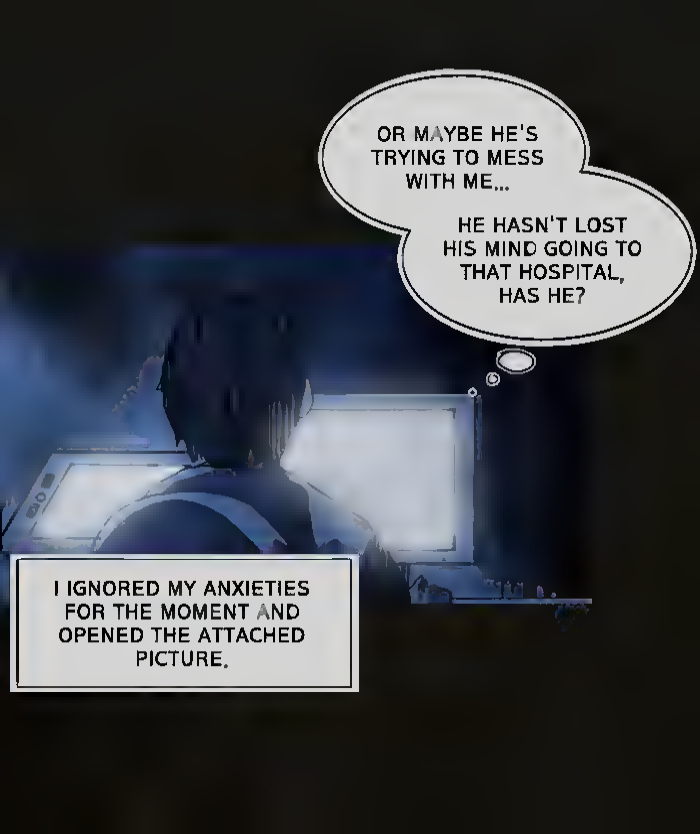
BZZZZZ

AND THEN FINALLY, I GOT A THIRD EMAIL FROM HIM.

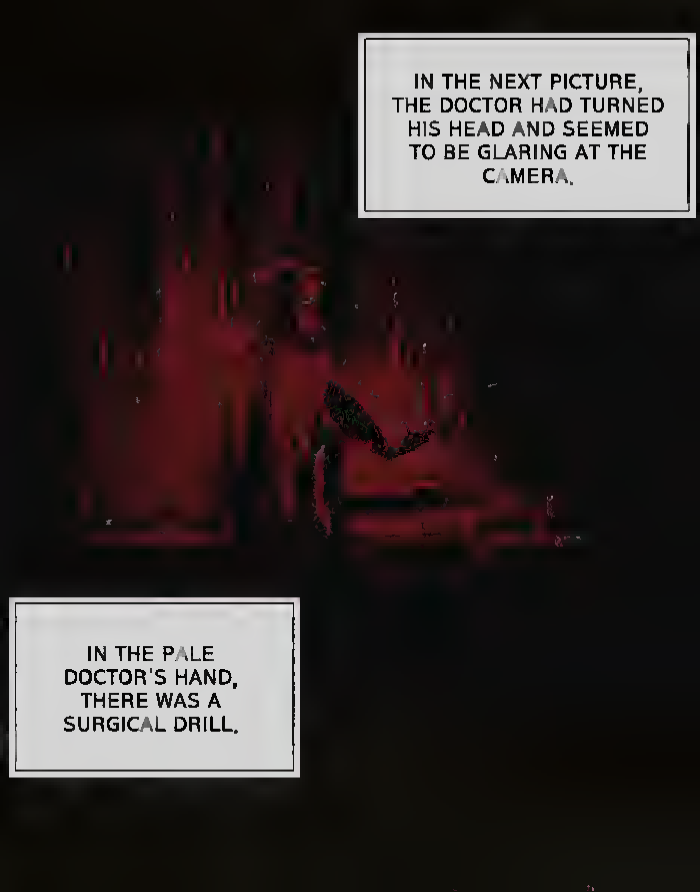

STRANGE...
HE SENT ME AN EMAIL, BUT HE WON'T PICK UP HIS PHONE..
CLICK
I DECIDED TO THINK ABOUT THAT LATER AND JUST OPEN THE EMAIL FOR NOW.

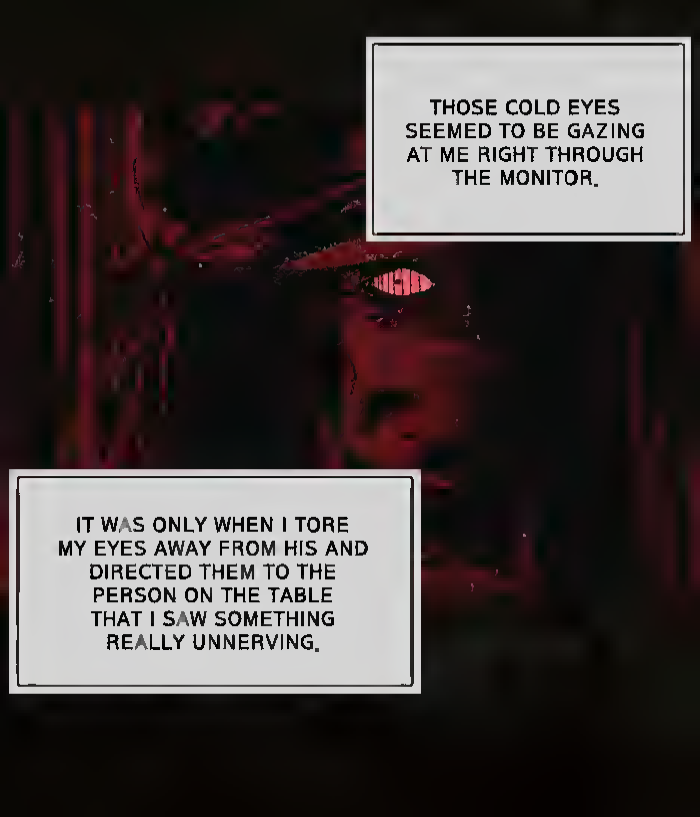

.....
REGULAR ATTACHMENT
SAVE ALL
DELETE ALL
WHAT THE...


IT WAS A JUMBLED MESS OF WORDS AND LETTERS...
MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF INTERNET OR COMPUTER PROBLEM..


OR MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO MESS WITH ME...
HE HASN'T LOST HIS MIND GOING TO THAT HOSPITAL, HAS HE?
I IGNORED MY ANXIETIES FOR THE MOMENT AND OPENED THE ATTACHED PICTURE.

IN THE FIRST PICTURE, THERE WAS SOMEONE LAYING ON THE DARK OPERATING TABLE.
AND BESIDE THAT, THERE WAS A DOCTOR IN AN OPERATING GOWN.


IN THE NEXT PICTURE, THE DOCTOR HAD TURNED HIS HEAD AND SEEMED TO BE GLARING AT THE CAMERA.
IN THE PALE DOCTOR'S HAND, THERE WAS A SURGICAL DRILL.


THOSE COLD EYES SEEMED TO BE GAZING AT ME RIGHT THROUGH THE MONITOR.
IT WAS ONLY WHEN I TORE MY EYES AWAY FROM HIS AND DIRECTED THEM TO THE PERSON ON THE TABLE THAT I SAW SOMETHING REALLY UNNERVING.

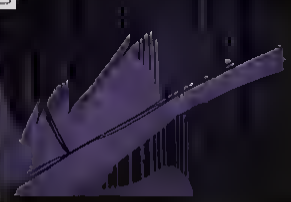
WERE JOO

I REPORTED IT TO THE POLICE, BUT THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HIM.

THERE ISN'T A SINGLE TRACE OF EVIDENCE IN THE HOSPITAL THAT JOONHO WAS EVER EVEN THERE.

I KEEP REMEMBERING THAT DOCTOR'S FACE.

I'M AFRAID THAT JOONHO'S GOING TO SUDDENLY CALL ME.



THANKFULLY, HE STILL HASN'T.

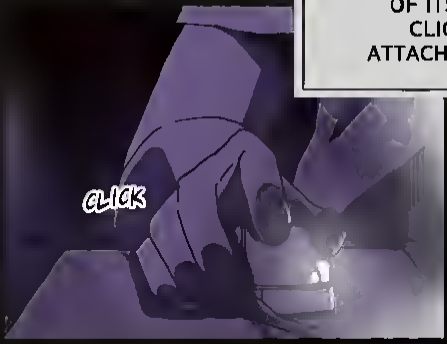
BUT

I GOT ANOTHER EMAIL.

I'M TERRIFIED TO OPEN IT.

BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WRONG WITH IT.
.....

AS IF POSSESSED,
MY HAND TOOK ON A LIFE
OF ITS OWN AND
CLICKED THE
ATTACHED PICTURE.



IT WAS JUST A SHOT
OF PURE DARKNESS.

IT WAS SO DARK
IT LOOKED LIKE THE
MONITOR HAD SHUT OFF.
THE DARK MONITOR
WAS LIKE A MIRROR
REFLECTING MY OWN FACE.

AND THEN,
I SAW THE DOCTOR
STANDING BEHIND ME
STARING AT ME
BZZZZ!!

SIR, TODAY'S THE DEADLINE FOR THE SPECIAL HORROR COMIC, BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE AUTHOR OR ARTIST.

DID THEY SAY THEY WERE GOING TO BE LATE?
HM... I'M NOT SURE.

I TRIED CALLING THEM YESTERDAY, BUT ALL I COULD HEAR WAS THIS WEIRD BUZZING SOUND.
SHOULD I TRY AGAIN?
AH! THE AUTHOR JUST SENT ME A COPY OF THE COMIC.
THE TITLE IS...

THE VAULT OF HORROR:
A COLLECTION OF NIGHTMARES

RESEARCH